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FLOOR DEBATE

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So I feel strongly, very strongly that the time has come to give the people of Nebraska the opportunity they deserve to vote on this issue. And I feel that it is the Legislature's responsibility to put something forward that will make a good policy for the whole state. I believe LR 11CA provides a straightforward approach to this issue, which is a good proposal for several reasons. First, this proposal has language which puts the ability to authorize and regulate casino-style gaming in the hands of the Legislature. And other types of gaming authorized in the state include horse racing, pickle cards, bingo, keno, lotteries, and the state lottery are allowed in our constitution with authorization of the Legislature. I believe it is important that the Legislature maintain their ability to regulate additional types of gaming in this state. Next I believe that the idea of a simple proposal is good for the integrity of our state constitution. In my opinion, the language of our constitution should remain as uncluttered and to the point as possible. This language provides that and a base on previous...and it's based on previous language provided for additional forms of gaming in our constitution. And I can...I will read that to you later. Third, this proposal provides one question only; whether the people want casino-style gaming or not, and I can live with that. I believe this is an advantage. It allows voters to decide simply whether they want this type of gaming in the state, not the locations, numbers and revenue distribution. Then if the voters decide that they want it, this proposal would allow the Legislature to come back and decide what types of games are desired by those across the state. People have trusted the Legislature to make tough choices on all types of difficult issues, all types of difficult issues. For instance, liquor control, tobacco, taxes, and even passed forms of authorized gaming. I guess I still believe that the people of the state trust us to make the tough calls on these issues as well, with the knowledge that if it doesn't work, the Legislature can change it. It probably won't be us, but we will still have the Legislature, the people that follow us. If people feel an interdiction zone is the best, we can put that in statutes. If they want a casino along I-80, then that is what will happen. If the people believe that slot machines at horse racetracks are desirable, so be it. And best of all, if for some reason these types of gaming are unsuccessful or the zones,